

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-20 RSC-01 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-05

NSAE-00 EB-04 COME-00 /053 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:OVARSTRONG:DPW

APPROVED BY EA:AWHUMMEL

S/PRS - MRS. WAYLAND (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

INFO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226011

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, CH, US

SUBJECT: USG REPRESENTATION AT FALL 1974 CANTON FAIR

REF: HONG KONG 11255

1. ALTHOUGH WE GENERALLY SHARE THE IDEAS IN PARAS 2 AND 3  
REFTEL, CONGEN SHOULD NOT RESPOND TO PRESS QUERIES WITH  
FULL OR FORMAL ON-THE-RECORD STATEMENT ALONG THOSE LINES.

2. WE WILL USE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE HERE, AND DEPEND-  
ING ON NATURE OF PRESS QUERIES, CONGEN SHOULD USE SAME  
LINE.

Q. HAS PRC TURNED DOWN VISA REQUESTS FOR TWO CONGEN  
OFFICERS TO ATTEND CANTON FAIR?

A. YES. EXPLANATION GIVEN WAS THAT US WOULD BE REPRE-  
SENTED AT FAIR BY USLO OFFICERS AND NCUSCT REPRESENTATIVES,  
WHICH SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT.

Q. WHAT IS DEPARTMENT'S (OR CONGEN'S) REACTION?

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A. WE REGRET THE PRC DECISION, AS WE BELIEVE THAT CONGEN OFFICERS' ATTENDANCE WOULD BE OF MUTUAL BENEFIT IN FACILITATING TRADING RELATIONSHIP. IN ADDITION TO ASSISTING AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AT THE FAIR , INCREASED FAMILIARITY WITH PRC TRADING PROCEDURES WOULD ENHANCE CONGEN ABILITY TO

ASSIST AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN WHO CONTACT CONGEN ABOUT TRADING WITH PRC.

Q. HAS THE USG PROTESTED THE DECISION?

A. "PROTEST" IS NOT THE RIGHT WORD, BUT THE STATE DEPT. HAS EXPLAINED OUR VIEWS TO THE PRC LIAISON OFFICE.

Q. DON'T OFFICIALS OF OTHER COUNTRIES STATIONED IN HONG KONG ATTEND THE FAIR?

A. WE UNDERSTAND THEY DO, BUT WE DON'T THINK IT IS USEFUL TO TRY TO COMPARE EXACTLY HOW VARIOUS COUNTRIES ARE OFFICIALLY REPRESENTED AT THE FAIR.

Q. ISN'T THE PRC VISA REFUSAL A SIGN OF TROUBLE IN THE US-PRC RELATIONSHIP?

A. NO, THE GENERAL RELATIONSHIP IS ON COURSE. OUR CONCERN NOW -- AS IN THE SPRING WHEN CONGEN OFFICERS ALSO WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE FAIR -- IS THAT IT MAKES IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR CONGEN TO ASSIST IN FACILITATING US-PRC TRADE. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VISAS, PERSONNEL TRAVEL, CANTON TRADE FAIR, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 OCT 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** shawdg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE226011  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** OVARMSTRONG:DPW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740291-0842  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741049/aaaabpmm.tel  
**Line Count:** 90  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** HONG KONG 11255  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** shawdg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by shawdg>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** USG REPRESENTATION AT FALL 1974 CANTON FAIR  
**TAGS:** ETRD, CH, US  
**To:** HONG KONG  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005